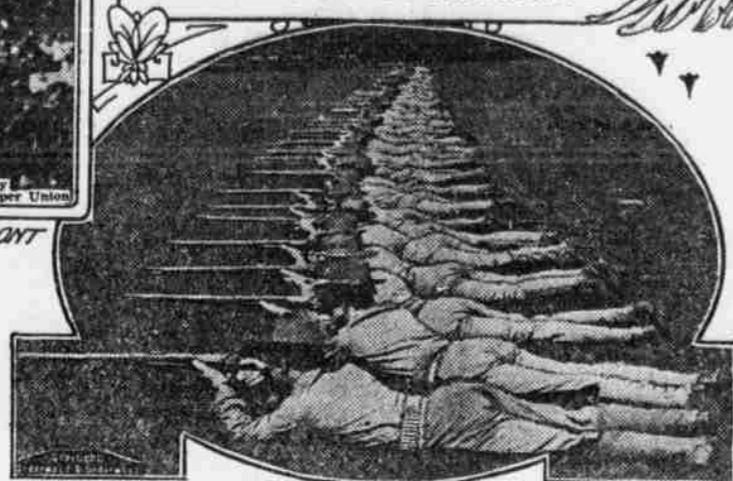




## Americans Best With the Rifle

Weapon Comes Into Its Own With Arrival of Pershing's Sharpshooters In Front Trenches



PRACTICE THAT HAS MADE AMERICAN SOLDIERS BEST MARKSMEN IN WORLD

200 to 600 yards in both rapid and slow fire and must make above 253 points out of a possible 300. The sharpshooter must average 238 out of 300 on the same course. It is no unusual record for a candidate of either of these classes to hang up ten consecutive bullseyes out of ten shots at the 600-yard range.

The German does not rely on his individual ability with the rifle. He is inclined to shoot wildly and at random. Reports have reached us of German companies frantically wasting great quantities of ammunition after a

feigned attack on the part of the foe. This is in part due to the German theory that a certain percentage of hits will result from a given number of shots. The Boche infantryman, except at short range, does not direct his aim at a particular adversary. He fires for general results.

A German officer, for instance, learns that there are a certain number of the enemy in a given zone about 100 yards square, 500 yards in front of his position. He estimates that if his company sprays this zone for a half-hour a certain percentage of casualties will be inflicted, dependent upon the rapidity of fire, number of marksmen and size of zone.

An American farmer boy could tell him how erroneous this theory is. He knows, because experience has taught him. Time and time again he has fired with a shotgun into a flock of ducks or a covey of grouse on the wing bunched apparently so closely that a miss is hardly possible. There are 150 or 200 individual shot in the load, yet such an attempt nearly always scores a complete miss. Naturally this percentage of failures must be still higher in rifle shooting.

An attacking party may be advancing in what looks like a dense mass. There is to the eye very little space between the men. A "general results" shot ought to score a hit. In point of fact, it usually does not. Spaces between the moving men are constantly opening. Very little of the front offers a vital target. A shot through a knapsack, a helmet, through baggy breeches, or thick leggings, even through the fleshy part of the body, will not stop a charging foe. The only way to make sure of a hit is to pick an individual target, aim at dead center, and fire accurately. An infantryman in full equipment is a good deal like a hawk on a fence post. You are likely to get a lot of feathers from your shot and very little hawk.

The ability to shoot accurately has made the American rifleman dangerous. This same skill is making our infantryman superior to his foe on the western front. General Pershing recognizes the need of maintaining this advantage, for in his reports he recommends that the greatest care be taken in rifle instruction at the front since this is the most valuable weapon both in offense and defense.

Put a company of crack German troops against an equal number of ours. Let them direct their fire based on the "general results" theory at our men while our boys follow the American method of selecting an individual target. An average company of Sammies would contain about ten experts, 20 sharpshooters, 35 marksmen and a large number of first-class riflemen. The result would not be hard to determine.

It is because of the deficiency of the Germans as riflemen that their general staff has resorted so largely to the hand grenade. For the same reason the French and British have done the same. We read stories of infantrymen chasing troops a quarter of a mile to get close enough to throw hand grenades at them. Well-directed rifle fire would have been far more effective. There are times at short range when the grenade is a superior weapon. One tossed into a group of men will do more damage than a single rifle bullet, but the supply of grenades a man can carry is limited and the distance at which they can be used effectively is short. Since the French and British are better shots than the Germans they send more riflemen over the top and fewer grenadiers.

The British regular army had a great reputation for shooting. Most of these had seen service in Egypt, Africa or other colonies where conditions in a degree resemble ours. The work these veterans did in the first battle of Ypres and at the retreat from Mons, where with practically no artillery they held four or five times their number shows what marksmanship can do for an army.

The Latin instinct is to use the knife. For this reason the French and the Italian revert often to the bayonet. Because the German does not like close hand-to-hand work he prefers the grenade.

The Canadian is our born brother at arms. The conditions that have made us made him. His effectiveness as a soldier is due to his individual initiative and to his skill with the rifle. What is true of him is true of our soldiers. Already they show a tendency to stick to the rifle. When they get going well the Germans will pray to be put against any troops except Americans—and the chief reason for this dread will be Sammy's expertness with the rifle.

The conditions in Europe are totally different. Land is owned by the aristocracy, and since feudal times hunting has been a privilege peculiar to that class. Unless he secures employment as a gamekeeper, the poor man has no chance to learn to shoot. Nor have the middle classes any better opportunity. Ammunition is expensive. The license fee is excessive, running as high as \$25. The only good guns are hand-made, for the reason that gunsmiths look only to the upper class as purchasers. Hence no good, cheap, machine-made rifles are manufactured. Lastly, there is no open land upon which to shoot.

For all these reasons, the workman of Europe knows very little about firearms.

Man for man, the total number of troops in the field taken into consideration, our Civil war was the bloodiest ever seen. The operations in Europe during the present struggle have always been over a wide front. The numbers engaged have been enormous and the total losses staggering. Yet the wastage of human life has been relatively small compared with that of the Union and Confederate armies. There has been no Gettysburg, no Bloody Angle in the present conflict. Why? Neither the forces under Grant or Lee attained the perfection of training acquired by the armies of today, with the exception of a few star corps composed of picked regiments. The heavy casualties were due to the individual fighting ability of the troops, to their expert use of the rifle.

From the days of the minute men of the Revolution, the superiority of the American rifleman has been conceded by all. Morgan's backwoods-men proved their efficiency as marksmen in the War for Independence. The raw frontiersman demonstrated it again at New Orleans under Jackson against Pakenham's trained regulars. At the Alamo, Crockett and Bowie, with a little handful of riflemen, held the hordes of Santa Ana at bay. Our history is full of incidents in which a little band of grim men, their backs to the wall, have held off many times their number by sheer tenacity and deadly rifle execution.

The reason for this is not far to seek. In early days America was a virgin land peopled by nomadic tribes with an amazing skill at woodcraft. These natives had to be outwitted and outfought.

No country in the world, with the possible exception of British Southeast Africa, ever had such a wealth of game as this. The first settlers were Anglo-Saxons, the greatest sport-loving people on earth. With them they brought little but firearms and stout hearts. They had to defend themselves against the Indians and to live by the chase. Gradually they learned to raise grain, fruit and vegetables native to the land of their adoption. But for a long time their main source of supply was wild game.

It resulted that every boy grew up with a rifle in his hands. Inevitably these frontiersmen, faced with an opportunity based upon necessity, developed the keen eye, the steady nerve and the woodmanship that made them the best shots ever known.

With the growth of the country the tide of civilization rolled westward. Clark opened the great Northwest. Pike led the way to the Rockies. Always the adventurous son pushed to the more remote frontier. The greatest trek in the history of the western hemisphere was on. For 50 years it continued. Almost every foot of the West was won by toil and hardship, at the cost of sacrifice from which men and women emerged strong and self-reliant.

The tradition of the hunt persists with us. The man used to tramping the hills for big game endures hardship and privation for the sake of the sport. He learns to shoot at fast-moving game under difficulties of distance and visibility. It follows that when he is taken out to the rifle range and instructed he learns in a few lessons the proper sighting and method of using the military rifle.

These once acquired, he is in a class by himself, for he is used to shooting under the same conditions, though with less danger to himself, that obtain at the front. No amount of practice at the rifle range can serve as a fit substitute for his experience.

It is this fundamental training which lies back of target practice that is responsible for the marksmanship of the American army. The marine corps holds the finest record in the service. Fully one-third of this organization wears the marksmanship emblem. At least one-half of the marines are first-class riflemen.

To win the expert emblem a marksman must shoot over the qualifying course at all ranges from

## IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

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### LESSON FOR JUNE 23

JESUS TRIUMPHANT OVER DEATH.

LESSON TEXT—Mary 16:1-26.  
GOLDEN TEXT—Now is Christ risen from the dead.—1 Corinthians 15:20.  
ADDITIONAL MATERIAL FOR TEACHERS—Matthew 28:1-20; Luke 24:1-48; John 20:1-29; 1 Corinthians 15:1-58; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.  
PRIMARY TOPIC—Jesus' power over death.—Mark 16:1-26.  
INTERMEDIATE TOPIC—The living Christ.  
SENIOR AND ADULT TOPIC—Christ's resurrection and the Christian's assurance of immortality.

1. The Ministry of Love (vv. 1-4).  
1. By whom (v. 1).  
Mary Magdalene, the mother of James and Salome.  
2. When (v. 2).  
Early in the morning, the first day of the week.  
(3) Their perplexity (vv. 3, 4).  
They questioned as to who should roll away the large stone from the mouth of the tomb. To their surprise they found the stone removed. They, like us, find their difficulties are removed before they come to them. If they had believed him, their anxieties and sorrows would not have been.

II. The Angel in the Tomb (vv. 5-8).  
Jesus knew that these women would come to the sepulcher with unbelieving hearts, so he had an angel waiting there to announce to them the fact of his resurrection. How many times we are helped out of doubts and difficulties by an angel which the omniscient Lord knew would be needed at a particular time. With such companions and helpers no place need seem lonely, and no condition need frighten us.

The angel's message:  
1. "Be not afraid" (v. 6).  
What comforting words these must have been to these bewildered women. The open tomb is the cure for fear; it steadies our hearts when things look dark and we do not understand.  
2. "Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified" (v. 6).  
This three-fold designation with marvelous clearness shows:  
(1) His humanity—Jesus.  
(2) Lowly residence—Nazareth.  
(3) Ignominious death—crucified.  
3. "He is risen; he is not here; behold the place where they laid him" (v. 6).  
These words throw light upon his birth, humility and shameful death. He who was born in lowly circumstances, and suffered the shameful death of the cross, is now the conqueror of death. His resurrection gives meaning to his death. If Christ had not risen, then his death would have been meaningless. "If Christ be not risen, your faith is vain; ye are in your sins" (1 Cor. 15:17).

4. "Go your way, tell his disciples and Peter" (v. 7).  
As soon as it was known that Christ had risen from the dead, they were to tell it to the disciples. Knowledge of Christ's triumph involves the responsibility of witnessing concerning it. The disciples all needed this blessed news, but Peter especially since he had so denied him. Wonderful grace, this!

5. "He goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see him" (v. 7).  
Christ had told the disciples that he would arise from the dead and meet them in Galilee, but their unbelief kept them from this blessed truth.

III. The Appearances of the Risen Christ (vv. 9-14).  
These appearances had as their object the restoration of the disciples from their awful failure and discouragement and the convincing them, without the peradventure of a doubt, of Christ's resurrection. Since his resurrection was to be the central theme of apostolic preaching, it was necessary that they have certainty of knowledge as to this matter (Acts 1:3). Without the resurrection of Christ, his death would be meaningless. Out of the ten or more appearances, Mark selects three.

1. To Mary Magdalene (vv. 9-11).  
Mary's heart responded to the Saviour's gracious deliverance of her from demons. Her sufferings were no doubt terrible. She is the first to the tomb. Her devotion is amply rewarded by being the first to meet the risen Lord. Light will surely come to the heart that really loves the Lord, though the faith is weak. She went at once and told the sorrowing disciples, but they refused to believe.

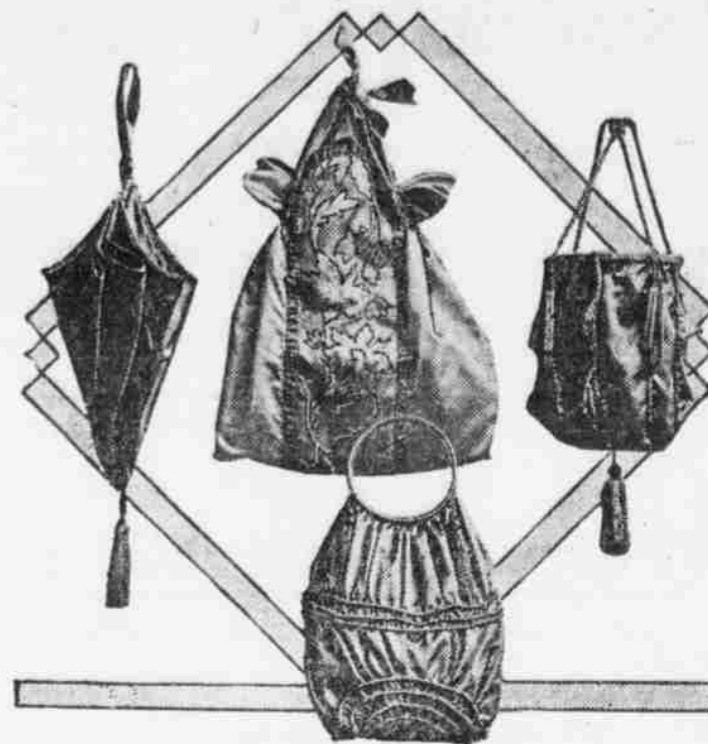
2. To two disciples on the way to Emmaus (vv. 12, 13).  
Luke gives full particulars concerning this appearance. Jesus had walked, talked, and eaten with them, convincing them that the Lord is risen indeed (Luke 24:13-35). The testimony of such is trustworthy.

3. To the eleven disciples (v. 14).  
IV. The Commission of the Risen Lord (vv. 15-18).  
After the disciples were convinced of the truth of his resurrection, Christ sent them forth to "preach the Gospel to every creature."

What a glorious and supreme task is this! "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned" (v. 16).

V. The Activity of the Enthroned Christ (vv. 19-20).  
After giving the disciples their commission, he ascends on high, and from the unseen sphere directs their activities. Wherever they went he conformed their word.

## Knitting Bags, Work Bags and Catch Alls



There is nothing for it but to knit and knit and then knit some more and carry on. She who does not must be forever explaining why not. It's an obligation and all that we have to show that our hearts are in the right place are knitting needles, knitting bags and such things.

The four hundredth pair of socks may prove just a little monotonous, but there are new knitting bags to add the spice of variety to our daily lives. At the ribbon counters they are showing some immensely clever ones along with other work bags and "catch-alls." Those who spend their time thinking of new things in bags have grown to be such adepts that life at the ribbon counter promises to become one continual round of joyous new bags—from now until the end of the year. Then—unless the war is over—they will begin all over again with 1919 knitting bags.

A new arrival that charms everyone is a knitting bag that looks like a little umbrella. It is made of silk or strips of ribbon, sewed together and cut into a circle. The circle is cut out in six scallops at the circumference and the points of these scallops are sewed to the ends of the narrow strip that forms the handle—

three scallops at each end of the strip. Then the handle is slipped through a small slide made of the ribbon and when it is drawn through the bag falls in the form of an umbrella. The tassel is sewed at the center of the circle of silk.

Work bags that will serve for knitting as well as other kinds of work are made of strips of plain and broadened ribbon sewed together lengthwise like that shown at the right of the umbrella bag. The top is cut in scallops and draws up on narrow satin ribbons that run through a casing sewed along the base of the scallops in the plain ribbon. Small rings sewed at the sides of the broadened ribbon are covered with crested silk and the narrow ribbon handles pass from the casing through them.

Below this bag a smaller working bag is gathered over large glass rings. It is made of plain satin ribbon joined with shirring over cord and finished with silk tassels. The bag at the right is made of narrow strips of ribbon, feather stitched together. Its mouth is a small embroidery hoop so it is always open and ready to catch what may be dropped into it. It hangs from four cords of silk and is finished with a tassel.

## Silk Street Suits



Some time before the days of midsummer have really arrived, merchants assemble stocks of silk street suits, ready to be presented when the first hot day comes. These midsummer suits are almost untripped, but are carefully designed and distinguished by smart style-touches and niceties of finish that place them close to the formal suit class. Clever women sometimes take their graceful but plain suits and tone them up with a little effective hand work, but even without that, they are equal to almost any demand.

There are many pretty suits of heavy taffetas and of gros-de-londres in the displays. One of the new taffeta suits is shown in the picture and it could hardly be simpler or plainer, but it is remarkably good style. The coat opens to the bust line, differing from earlier styles which were open to the waist line. It has a short, flaring skirt portion with three plaits at each side and a little dip in front, all very crisp and spirited. Flat, white pearl buttons fasten it. They invite the addition of a white blouse vestee and collar and white cuffs. Altogether they

make this suit irresistibly cool looking, and that is the charm of charme in midsummer. White pumps and stockings might be worn with it to the best advantage.

Among these new silk suits there is one having a coat with three flounces, set in across the back that is very pretty. It has narrow pockets set on at each side with rows of small buttons, and a belt of the silk. These belts, in many silk suits, extend around the waist in the most straightforward and matter-of-fact manner, which is another point of departure from style in cloth suits. The most popular colors are navy, taupe and black, but light colors, as sand gray or white have a daintiness that compensates for their being shorter lived.

Julie Bonnelly

### The Palm.

To keep a pet palm in order, the leaves should be sponged carefully every week. Don't water palms too often; let the earth become dry, then soak it liberally.